

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A pipette mandrel for engagement with the interior wall of a pipette tip, the pipette mandrel comprising:

- a. an elongated hollow structure, the hollow structure including a proximate end and a distal end;
- b. a lead-in portion formed on the distal end of the hollow structure;
- c. a first cylindrical portion adjacent to the lead-in portion, the first cylindrical portion having a first exterior diameter;
- d. a second cylindrical portion adjacent to the first cylindrical portion, the second cylindrical portion having a second exterior diameter that is greater than the first exterior diameter;
- e. a first non-resilient raised band positioned upon the first cylindrical portion, the first raised band having a diameter greater than the first exterior diameter of the first cylindrical portion, the first raised band for contacting the interior wall of the pipette tip to form a first seal between the first raised band and the pipette tip; and
- f. a second raised band positioned upon the second cylindrical portion, the second raised band having a diameter greater than the second exterior diameter of the second cylindrical portion, the second raised band for

contacting the interior wall of the pipette tip to form a second seal between the second raised band and the pipette tip.

2. (Original) The pipette mandrel of claim 1 wherein the first raised band is adjacent to the lead-in portion such that the lead-in portion tapers into the first raised band.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The pipette mandrel of claim 1 further comprising a taper between the first and second cylindrical portion.
6. (Original) The pipette mandrel of claim 5 wherein the second raised band is positioned on the end of the second cylindrical portion substantially adjacent to the taper.
7. (Previously presented) A pipette assembly comprising:
 - a. a pipette tip including a collar portion and an adjacent head, the head for receiving or expelling fluids from the tip, the collar portion including an interior cylindrical wall having a first interior diameter and a second interior diameter separated by a step portion, the interior cylindrical wall of the pipette tip further comprising a positive stop and the interior cylindrical wall void of any raised sealing rings;
 - b. a hollow mandrel having a proximate end and a distal end, the mandrel comprising:
 - (1) a lead-in portion formed on the distal end of the mandrel;
 - (2) a first cylindrical portion adjacent to the lean-in portion, the first cylindrical portion having a first exterior diameter;
 - (3) a first raised band positioned upon the first cylindrical portion, the

first raised band having a diameter greater than the first exterior diameter of the first cylindrical portion, the first raised band contacting the interior cylindrical wall of the collar portion to form a first seal between the mandrel and the pipette tip; and

- (4) a second cylindrical portion adjacent to the first cylindrical portion, the second cylindrical portion having a second exterior diameter.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The pipette assembly of claim 7 wherein a flange between the collar portion and conical head is the positive stop.

11. (Previously Presented) The pipette assembly of claim 7 wherein a puller ring on the interior wall of the pipette tip is the positive stop.

12. (Original) The pipette assembly of claim 11 wherein the collar portion of the pipette tip further comprises vertical ribs positioned on the exterior of the collar portion of the pipette tip.

13. (Original) The pipette assembly of claim 7 wherein the mandrel further includes a second cylindrical portion adjacent to the first cylindrical portion, the second cylindrical portion having a second exterior diameter.

14. (Original) The pipette assembly of the claim 13 wherein the mandrel further includes a second raised band positioned upon the second cylindrical portion, the second raised band having a diameter greater than the second exterior diameter of the second cylindrical portion.

15. (Original) The pipette assembly of claim 14 wherein the second raised band

contacts the interior cylindrical wall of the collar portion to form a second seal between the mandrel and the pipette tip.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting a pipette mandrel to a pipette tip comprising:

- a. providing a pipette tip comprising a collar portion and an adjacent conical head, the conical head for receiving or expelling fluids from the tip, the collar portion including an interior cylindrical wall having a first interior diameter;
- b. providing a hollow mandrel having a proximate end and a distal end, the mandrel comprising:
 - (1) a lead-in portion formed on the distal end of the mandrel;
 - (2) a first cylindrical portion adjacent to the lead-in portion, the first cylindrical portion having a first exterior diameter;
 - (3) a first non-resilient raised band portioned upon the first cylindrical portion, the first raised band having a diameter greater than the first exterior diameter; and
 - (4) a second cylindrical portion having a second exterior diameter that is greater than the first exterior diameter; and
 - (5) a second raised band positioned upon the second cylindrical portion, the second raised band having a diameter greater than the second exterior diameter of the second cylindrical portion;
- c. inserting said pipette tip onto said mandrel such that the first non-resilient raised band contacts the interior cylindrical wall of the collar portion to

form a first seal between the mandrel and the pipette tip and the second raised band contacting the cylindrical wall of the collar portion to form a second seal between the mandrel and the pipette tip.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 comprising the step of removing the pipette tip from the mandrel such that the first raised band disengages the interior cylindrical wall of the collar portion.

19. (Currently amended) A pipette tip and mandrel assembly comprising:

a. a mandrel comprising

- (1) a first cylindrical portion having a first exterior diameter, the first cylindrical portion having a first non-resilient raised band positioned upon the first cylindrical portion;
- (2) a second cylindrical portion connected to the first cylindrical portion, the first cylindrical portion having a second exterior diameter ~~greater~~ different than the first exterior diameter; and

b. a pipette tip positioned upon the mandrel, the pipette tip comprising

- (1) a head for receiving and expelling liquids;
- (2) a collar connected to the head, the collar designed and adapted to fit over the first cylindrical portion and the second cylindrical portion of the mandrel, the collar comprising an interior cylindrical wall having a first interior diameter portion and a second interior diameter portion such that the diameter of the second interior diameter portion is ~~greater~~ different than the diameter of the first

interior diameter portion; wherein the first interior diameter portion of the collar engages the first non-resilient raised band of the mandrel to form a first seal, and the second interior diameter portion of the collar fits over the second cylindrical portion of the mandrel.

20. (Currently amended) The pipette and mandrel assembly of claim 19 wherein the mandrel further comprises a second non-resilient raised band positioned upon the second cylindrical portion.

21. (Currently amended) The pipette and mandrel assembly of claim 20 wherein the second interior diameter portion of the collar engages the second non-resilient raised band of the mandrel to form a second seal.

22. (Previously presented) The pipette and mandrel assembly of claim 19 wherein the interior cylindrical wall of the pipette tip is void of any raised sealing rings.

23. (Previously presented) The pipette assembly of claim 19 wherein the interior cylindrical wall of the pipette tip further comprises a positive stop.